

Information Form People with Disabilities: Extra Places

1. Overview

The Lay Conference will bring 1700 participants together on **Saturday 9 June 2018** at the **Harrogate Convention Centre**. It is designed to help lay church members fulfil their potential as they live out their faith at work, school and in their parishes.

The Diocese of Leeds encourages the participation of people of all abilities in the life of the church. Each parish is encouraged to send 2-6 delegates, depending on electoral roll size, nominated by their 'lead priest'. There will also be a number of extra places for people with disabilities or who are BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnicity) and for young people, in line with national efforts to increase inclusion and encourage diversity.

Each parish is asked to identify participants who between them cover the following:

- i) Potential to play a leading role in parish life over the next ten years
- ii) Strong interest in relating faith to day-to-day life
- iii) Already engaged in church-based ministry

Speakers include Mark Russell (Church Army CEO), Bishop Jo Bailey-Wells, Cal Bailey (ex-Director of Sustainability, NG Bailey), Kate Nicholas (journalist and author of *Sea Changed*), Bishop Toby Howarth, Nick Shepherd (author of *Faith Generation*).

2. What it means to be a participant with disabilities allocated an extra place

- a. **Before the Conference:** Extra places will be allocated through a nomination process (see 4 below). Once an extra place has been confirmed, participants will need to register online. All adult parish delegates should arrange to meet together with their 'lead priest' by 21 May, to discuss questions provided in advance.
- b. **On the Day:** There will be a combination of all-together sessions in the main auditorium and smaller 'self-select' sessions. There will also be a marketplace with stallholders. Delegates will be given guidance on how best to feed back to their parishes.
- c. **Afterwards:** Adult participants will meet together with their PCC afterwards to explore questions raised by their experience and share what they have learned. People with disabilities will also be invited to report back to a diocesan forum hosted by the Diocesan Disability Officer.

3. Costs and travel

Core costs are being covered by funding set aside when the new diocese was launched. There is no per capita charge for the extra places for people with disabilities. Where possible, participants are encouraged to car share or use public transport. Parishes are encouraged to contribute to delegates' travel costs where needed.

4. Nomination process for extra places

- a. For the extra places for people with disabilities, a completed nomination form must be submitted to the Diocesan Disability Officer, endorsed by the 'lead priest' of the parish (maximum two per parish).
- b. The only criteria for nomination and endorsement are i-iii in section 1 above.
- c. People with disabilities may be accompanied by a personal assistant, nominated by them
- d. Places are limited, so those nominated are not guaranteed a place.
- e. Nominees will be asked to state any requirements that need to be taken into account, so these can be checked against facilities at the Conference Centre. There are a limited number of seats available for wheelchair users in the main auditorium, but some seating areas will not be accessible to people who use larger wheelchairs/mobility scooters/buggies; there will also be a quiet room.
- f. Extra places will be allocated after 6 March, taking account of stated criteria (see 1 above) and capacity to accommodate particular requirements (see 4d above). 'Disability' is understood according to the definition given in the Equality Act 2010 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

5. Registration

- a. Those nominated will be advised whether or not they have been allocated an extra place.
- b. Those allocated extra places will be able to register online, along with their personal assistant if applicable.
- c. Online registration involves choosing preferences for self-select sessions; any personal assistants will need to select the same sessions as the person they are accompanying.
- d. If a registered participant finds they are no longer able to attend, it will be possible in certain circumstances to arrange a substitute.

6. Further Information

Updates and further information can be found on the FAQ section of the webpage:

www.leeds.anglican.org/lay-conference/extra-places

For any queries about the nomination and registration process for people with disabilities, please contact Fiona Hill (Disability Officer) on fiona.hill@leeds.anglican.org.